

Message Text

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S E C R E T RABAT 4815

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MO
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: FURTHER BACKGROUND FOR YOUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HASSAN

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: RABAT 4809

1. IN CONVERSATION EVENING NOVEMBER 1, KING HASSAN HAD
FOLLOWING TO SAY CONCERNING US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, YOUR
FORTHCOMING VISIT, AND MIDEAST SITUATION.

A. MOROCCAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE MOST CORDIAL. HE
HAS BEEN LONG-STANDING ADMIRER OF US AND THIS IS FURTHER

EXPRESSION OF LONG RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, MOROCCO IS AN ARAB COUNTRY AND
THEREFORE, BECAUSE OF THESE DOUBLE TIES, IT HAS A USEFUL
ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

B. IN THIS LIGHT, PROSPECTS OF FRESH CONVERSATIONS WITH A NEW
SECRETARY OF STATE ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME. THE KING ADMIRES
WAY PRESIDENT NIXON IS STANDING UP UNDER GREAT INTERNAL
PRESSURES. THIS IS SOMETHING HE, THE KING, ALSO KNOWS
SOMETHING ABOUT, AND THIS FORGES A COMMON BOND. HE HAS
ALSO NOTED WITH GREAT APPRECIATION PRESIDENT'S AND YOUR
DESIRE TO ACHIEVE REAL AND DURABLE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST.

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THIS IS ALSO MOROCCO'S WISH.

C. AS TO DETAILS OF VISIT, KING IS PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE

ACCEPTED TO BE HIS SPECIAL GUEST. KING DOES NOT WANT TO TIRE YOU WITH TOO MUCH CEREMONIAL WHEN YOU ARRIVE, BUT DOES WISH TO HONOR YOU IN MANNER YOUR POSITION AND IMPORTANCE WARRANT.

D. KING WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU ABOUT 1000 THUESDAY FOR FRANK TALKS. PART OF TALKS SHOULD BE TETE-A-TETE FOR COMPLETE FRANKNESS; OTHER PARTS MAY BE JOINED BY OTHERS. WE AGREED THAT SUBSEQUENT LUNCH SHOULD BE ENTIRELY MOROCCAN-AMERICAN AFFAIR.

E. I TRANSMITTED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 215180 (RE SYRIA) AS WELL AS YOUR APPRECIATION FOR KING'S INVITATION AND CORDIAL MANNER IN WHICH EVERYTHING IS BEING ARRANGED. I ALSO THANKED HIM ONCE MORE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CORIDALITY ACCORDED ME AND FOR THE KING'S WARM AND EXTENDED WORDS AT MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

F. KING THEN RETURNED TO QUESTION OF SYRIA. MOROCCO DID NOT HAVE SUCH CLOSE RELATIONS IN PAST WHEN EXTREMIST BAATHISTS WERE IN POWER THERE, BUT ASSAD WAS A MUCH MORE MODERATE MAN. NOW THERE IS GREAT BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AS RESULT COMMON STRUGGLE. FOR THAT REASON MOROCCO STANDS READY TO BE USEFUL TO USG IF WE WISH ANY IDEAS OR MESSAGES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO SYRIANS WHENEVER USG CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY.

G. KING ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR WARMTH OF YOUR LETTER. HE REGARDED IT AS VIRTUALLY "LOVE LETTER TO MOROCCO" AND WILL SOON DRAF PERSONAL REPLY.

2. I WILL REPORT OTHER COMMENTS IN FUTURE AIRGRAM.

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT KING HIMSELF HAS GONE TO INSPECT YOUR PROPOSED GUEST QUARTERS AND ORDERED CERTAIN REFINEMENTS HE THINKS WOULD BE WELCOME.
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NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION CHANGED TO EXDIS BY S/S-O, MR. KURZE.

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